



Epiphany

Delerium

MVD Visual - MVD5029D (DVD)

Available from *MVD Entertainment Group*.

A review written for the Folk & Acoustic Music Exchange
by **Mark S. Tucker**
(progdawg@hotmail.com).

This video is long overdue. Delerium has been around since 1987, and, while most know it as a side project of what has chiefly been Bill Leeb & Rhys Fulber's Front Line Assembly, both the mother group and its offspring have been subjected to carousels of personnel, Leeb the only true constant factor. Perhaps ironically, Delerium has been the most commercially successful of all the projects associated with the FLA germ-seed. Sarah McLachlan sang for the ensemble, as has Matthew Sweet, while Lisa Gerrard and Baaba Maal have been sampled for inclusion in songs. The music has forever been dark, ambient, Gothgorian chant-oriented, and dance accessible. Thusly, such notables as DJ Tiesta have been more than happy to subject Delerium's music to remixing.

Perhaps due to the success of such groups as Goldfrappe, perhaps because the general music atmosphere has become so much more responsive to progressive musics over the decades following the inglorious collapse of punk (which couldn't have come too soon), maybe even attributable to a wealth of reasons, Nasty Byte and MVD decided the era was ripe for an **Epiphany**, and they were entirely correct. This smoky, sensual, melliflously haunted concert is an exposition of just how attractive sophisticated lament music can be in a modern context.

Women have tended to dominate the Delerium vocal department, and that's the case here, with Kristy Thirsk and Leigh Nash not unlike Maggie O'Reilly with Mike Oldfield or even the work of Mike's sis, Sally, with a decent amount of Kate Bush thrown in for good measure. Everything is soft, gauzy, psychedelic, transmuting, and dulcet, synths swirling in the background, hypno-pulse reflecting in the drumwork, guitars taking the secondary stage behind the girls. A number of adeptly restrained World musics appear in the Impressionist-Romantic mix, but everything is in perfect fidelity with what the band has ever presented. One can pretty much pick any Delerium release and get precisely the late-fall afternoon and moonlit-night immersions one longs for in this genre, a 95-minute sonic/visual brocade of flowing melancholy...save for a few annoying elements (solarized interlude film of the road crew setting up, the singers applying make-up in a dressing room; and I'm not sure what was intended in any of that) soon enough bypassed. The music, though.....ahhhhhh, the music!

Track List:

- Angelicus
- Love
- After All
- Terra Firma
- Innocente
- Self-Saboteur
- The Way You want It to Be
- Twilight
- Flowers become Screens
- Silence
- Incantation
- Forgotten Worlds

Edited by: David N. Pyles
(dnpyles@acousticmusic.com)



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